

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on July 26, 2004 as well as the art cited. Claim 1 has been amended to include the patentable limitations of claim 6 and as a result claim 1 should be allowed. Claim 6 has been cancelled. As a result claims 1-5, 7-12 and 136-140 are currently pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the 1449 form, listing all references that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 1, 2004, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next official communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Holt, (U.S. Patent No. 5,914,854). Applicant respectfully notes that this rejection is now moot as Claim 1 has been amended to include the patentable limitations of claim 6. As a result Claim 1 is allowable and claim 3 depends from allowable claim 1 and is also allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt in view of Weimer (U.S. Patent No. 5,750,905).

Claims 4-5 and 138 were rejected under 35 §USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt in view of Hutchinson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,637).

Claims 136-137 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt in view of Campo et al (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0074946).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Claims 2, 4-5, and 136-138 depend from allowable claim 1 and are also allowable.

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Title: CLAMPING CASE

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-12, 139 and 140 are allowable over the art and that claim 6 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

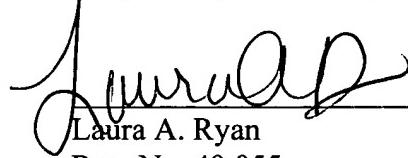
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5, 7-12 and 136-140 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

Date:

26 October 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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